

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Board Briefs

Gaston County Board of Education ■ Communication Department ■ 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC 28054
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The Gaston County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020, 5:30 p.m., at the Gaston County Schools Central Office, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia. At that time, the Board will . . .

- Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Consider formal adoption of the Board Agenda as required by Robert’s Rules of Order (revised edition).
 - Recognize Students and Employees.
 - Provide an opportunity for Public Expression. At each Board meeting, the public has an opportunity to address the Board.
 - Consider approval of minutes of the February 17, 2020 legislative and regular meetings.
 - Receive the following Good News for March 2020:
1. Thirteen students from **Gaston County Schools** were selected for the prestigious North Carolina Governor’s School. They are **Ramon Bernal, Hunter Huss High School; Conner Cobb, South Point High School; Lydia Crawford, South Point High School; Isaak Gibson, North Gaston High School; Ailysa Lee, Hunter Huss High School; Baylee Parks, Hunter Huss High School; Grace Nehring, South Point High School; Thomas Purrello, Highland School of Technology; Ike Reinhardt, Highland School of Technology; Annie Russell, Highland School of Technology; Nataly Tario, Ashbrook High School; and Wyatt Wilson, Cherryville High School.**
 2. The following students earned awards at the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair held at UNC-Charlotte: **Samantha Franke, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy; Aidan McGinnis, Belmont Central Elementary; Avery Davis, Belmont Middle; Amija Nixon, Grier Middle; Carli Ann Phillips, Belmont Middle; Kelsey Barker, Southwest Middle; Leslie Coffey and Emma Davis, Forestview High School; Clara Cobb, East Gaston High School; Nathan Vasquez and Tanner Warsinsky, Gaston Early College High School; Paul Stroman, Allison Pollard and Kaitlyn Leisure, Stuart W. Cramer High School; Joseph Wittmer, Gaston Early College High School; and Abby Godwin and Brianna Hux, Stuart W. Cramer High School.**
 3. Six students will represent **Gaston County Schools** in the N.C. Science and Engineering Fair after winning top honors at the regional competition. Advancing to the state science fair in the elementary school division is **Aidan McGinnis, Belmont Central Elementary**, and advancing in the middle school division is **Avery Davis, Belmont Middle School**. Advancing in the high school division are **Clara Cobb, East Gaston High School; Joseph Wittmer, Gaston Early College High School; and Abby Godwin and Brianna Hux, Stuart W. Cramer High School.**
 4. A number of elementary schools in **Gaston County Schools** observed “Read Across America” Week to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday. Schools welcomed local “celebrities” to serve as guest readers, including Superintendent of Schools **W. Jeffrey Booker.**
 5. The Battle of the Books middle school winners were **Cramerton Middle**, first place; **Belmont Middle**, second place; and **Gaston Virtual Academy**, third place.
 6. The **Stanley Middle School** boys’ team and the **Southwest Middle School** girls’ team won the county basketball championships.
 7. The Gaston Arts Council in partnership with Gaston College, the Gaston County Art Guild, and the North Carolina Arts Council presented a senior student art show featuring outstanding artwork by high school students from **Ashbrook, Bessemer City, Cherryville, Stuart W. Cramer, East Gaston, Hunter Huss, and North Gaston.** The exhibit showcased various works produced through a variety of techniques including painting, drawing, and mixed media. The following students received awards for their artwork: **Lara Moss, Cherryville High School, Best of Show; Olivia Hedrick, Stuart W. Cramer High School, First Place; Rebecca Watts, East Gaston High School, Second Place; Karson Dean, North Gaston High School, Third Place; Madison Allran, East Gaston High School, Honorable Mention; and Yiscarley Celadilla, Ashbrook High School, Board Award.**
 8. **Elissa Whitcomb of South Point High School** earned an appointment to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.
 9. The “Do the Right Thing” award winners for March are **Maliah Elliott of Lingerfeldt Elementary; Justin Garcia Oliva of York Chester Middle School; and Nick Fiestas of Stuart W. Cramer High School.** The awards program recognizes students for outstanding leadership, service, and character.
 10. **North Belmont Elementary** (partnered with the Gastonia East Rotary Club) won the “Are You Smarter Than a Gaston County Fifth Grader?” competition. **Sherwood Elementary** earned second place and **Sadler Elementary** took third place. Sponsored by the Gaston County Education Foundation, the popular annual event pairs businesses and organizations with elementary schools in a fun game show format. Proceeds benefit the Ron L. Ensley grants program for teachers to fund innovative classroom lessons and projects.
 11. **H.H. Beam Elementary, W. B. Beam Intermediate, W.A. Bess Elementary, Chapel Grove Elementary, Hawks Nest STEAM Academy, Pleasant Ridge Elementary, Sadler Elementary, York Chester Middle, and Webb Street School** were winners in the “I Love a Clean School” contest sponsored by Keep Gastonia Beautiful.
 12. **Ashbrook High School** senior **David Buckner** was named a Levine Scholar at UNC-Charlotte. In addition, he received scholarships from Gardner-Webb University, UNC-Chapel Hill, and East Carolina University.
 13. **Rankin Elementary** third grader **Beckham Clawson** won first place in the N.C. Department of Transportation’s aviation art contest. He was one of 2,420 students to submit an entry. His winning artwork was sent to Washington, D.C., to compete in the national competition. In addition, he won a \$75 first place prize and his school won \$100. His art teacher is **Abigail McLaurin.**
 14. **Belmont Central Elementary** held a Read-A-Thon and raised more than \$6,000 that will be used to purchase new books for the school’s media center. Students read a total of nearly 250,000 minutes during the week of the program.
 15. The United Way of Gaston County selected art pieces by **W.A. Bess Elementary** fifth grade students **Cameron Smith** and **Courtney Snyder** for a mural in Gaston County. **Laura Farmer** is the school’s art teacher.
 16. The **Bessemer City Middle School** band was awarded a superior and two excellent ratings at the Wingate University band contest festival.
 17. **Brookside Elementary** students and staff celebrated the school’s 25th birthday with a pep rally and Community Night program. In addition, second grade students dressed up as historic figures and shared facts in a “wax museum” setting.
 18. **Carr Elementary** celebrated “Leading with Love” week, February 10-14. One of the events held during the week was the school’s first local heroes breakfast. Guests included members of the Dallas Police Department, Dallas Fire Department and Dallas Rescue Squad as well as Sheriff Alan Cloninger, Dallas town officials, and the school’s custodians and bus drivers. The meal was donated by the Country Kitchen in Dallas. The school’s Student Leadership Club presented a short program about “The Leader in Me” curriculum, and the school chorus performed several songs.
 19. **Stanley Middle School** students completed Genius Hour projects and showcased them during parent-teacher conferences.

20. **Stanley Middle School** teachers **Sandy Engbarth, Kaitlin Bumgarner, Jill Hendrix, Diana Baxter, Jackie Tant,** and **Casey Miller** were recognized as trailblazers for the Modern Teacher Initiative.
21. The new playground equipment has been installed at **Carr Elementary**. The playground was made possible through donations from **Gaston County Schools**, the Town of Dallas, the Carr PTO, the Dallas Police Department, and Judy Foster.
22. **Carr Elementary** hosted its first “Readers are Leaders” Week. In addition, the school conducted a Junior Achievement Day program that featured volunteers from **North Gaston High School**, UNC-Charlotte, and the business community.
23. **Carr Elementary** kicked off a school-wide book study of “The Magic Trap.” All students and staff received a copy of the book, and staff members served as guest readers for a video featuring each chapter.
24. **Carr Elementary** held kindergarten registration night on February 13. This event included dinner, online registration help, tours of kindergarten classes, and a free backpack with school supplies for new students.
25. **Cherryville High School** received a retired patrol vehicle from the Gaston County Police Department for its Public Service Academy program.
26. **East Gaston High School** students **Dylan West** and **Patrick Helton** passed the ASE G1 certification for automobile maintenance and light repair.
27. **East Gaston High School** senior **Andrea Tejada** is the recipient of the Goodnight Scholarship from N.C. State University.
28. **Forestview High School** senior **Sarah Tolbert** is the recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship through the 529 College Savings program. She plans to attend Appalachian State University.
29. As part of her Girl Scouts Silver Award project, **W.C. Friday Middle School** student **Hala Freeman** built a “buddy bench” to encourage students to be kinder and more inclusive of others.
30. **W.C. Friday Middle School** eighth grade student **Alejandra Umazor** auditioned for the all-state honors band and was chosen as an alternate.
31. Students at **Gardner Park Elementary** received a new coat through the “Operation Warm” program. Members of the Gastonia East Rotary Club assisted with the fitting of the coats.
32. **Gaston Early College High School** held a celebration to bring attention to the school earning an A performance grade for the past five years on the state accountability program. A highlight was the presentation of the Roman numeral “V” t-shirts to all students.
33. **Highland School of Technology** senior **Urael Mussie** received the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship from UNC-Chapel Hill.
34. **Highland School of Technology** students **Ruben Pelayo Quezada** and **Samuel Shiles** each received the N.C. State University Goodnight Scholarship valued at \$20,500 per year.
35. **Hunter Huss High School** juniors and seniors attended the CIAA Education Day College Fair. Senior students received more than 40 college acceptances and \$15,000 in scholarships.
36. Internationally-known actress, singer, movie star, and voiceover artist Maria Howell performed for students at **Hunter Huss High School, York Chester Middle School,** and **Grier Middle School**. Her performances were sponsored by the Piedmont Chapter of the Links, Inc. and the Gaston Arts Council. Howell is a 1979 graduate of **Hunter Huss High School**.
37. Gastonia Mayor Walker Reid served as **Warlick Academy’s** first guest speaker during the school’s Inflectional Speaker Series. Additionally, the school held its annual barbecue fundraiser on March 6 and sold an all-time high of 1,355 plates.
38. **Webb Street School** held its fifth annual “Art of Fashion” show on March 6. The school had 48 students participate in the event, and the school collected more than \$17,000. A number of community partners including Dallas Electric Company, Webb Custom Kitchen, and the Carely Skibo Family supported the program.
39. **York Chester Middle School** held a Veterans Appreciation Day program that featured two World War II U.S. Marine Corps veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima. In addition, school counselor **Tammy Hubbard** organized the school’s annual Career Day program that featured 58 businesses and 81 professionals representing different career areas.
40. **York Chester Middle** held a Pi Day celebration on March 12 that featured students working math problems in a game show format. **Board of Education** members **Dot Cherry, Steve Hall,** and **Terry Usery** were special guests for the festivities.
41. **Lowell Elementary** sponsored its first Read-A-Thon that featured the theme “Raising the Roof with Reading.” Students exceeded their goal by reading 413,364 minutes and raising \$5,425.21.
42. The **Lowell Elementary** student council sold lollipops to raise funds for two community organizations. Students collected \$700 and donated \$350 to Holy Angels and \$350 as well as 50 pounds of pet food to the Tri-County Animal Shelter. The fundraiser was organized by school counselor **Mary Warner**.
43. **Mount Holly Middle School** participated in the “Polar Plunge” competition sponsored by Gaston County Special Olympics. Students and staff collected nearly \$3,600 for Special Olympics. In addition, the school hosted the Gaston County Special Olympics United Champions Basketball event.
44. **North Gaston High School** teacher **Maggie LeGrant** won a \$1,000 grant from the North Carolina Council for Social Studies.
45. As part of the Leadership Academy program at **North Gaston High School**, 30 students assisted **Costner Elementary** with its Junior Achievement Day program.
46. **Pinewood Elementary** students collected and donated 274 pounds of food to the Mount Holly Community Relief Organization to “share the love” on Valentine’s Day.
47. **Pleasant Ridge Elementary** welcomed the school’s first Junior Beta Club. Fifty-one fourth and fifth grade students were inducted into the prestigious organization during a ceremony on February 27.
48. **Sherwood Elementary** kicked off “Read America Week” with distinguished community guests reading to students, including Superintendent of Schools **W. Jeffrey Booker**, other school leaders, and representatives from the City of Gastonia.

- Classroom Moment.
- Instructional Resources Update.
- Receive information regarding the 2020-2021 Superintendent’s Budget Request.
- Consider the Resolution in Support of State Budget.
- Consider Superintendent Authority for Actions related to COVID-19.
- Consider the Consent Agenda. The Board previously authorized the use of a Consent Agenda for routine items. The following items will be considered under the Consent Agenda:
 - Recommended Personnel.
 - Budget Amendments and Budget Transfers.
 - Construction/Repair Change Orders.
 - Eligibility of Transfer Athletes – Revised Policy 4316.
 - Contract:
 - End-of-Grade/End-of-Course Summer School.
- Superintendent’s Comments.
- Closed Session – Personnel and Consultation with Attorney.

For more information, please contact the Communications/Public Information Department, Todd Hagans, (704) 866-6118.